

Montana Advocates for Children - First Draft 1-4-07  
Full-Time Kindergarten

The Montana Advocates for Children support children's early learning in developmentally appropriate settings. As the 2007 Montana Legislature, local school districts and others study full-time kindergarten proposals, our coalition would like you to consider the following questions and points.

Transition to Full-Day, Full-Time Kindergarten

1. How will local school districts plan for the transition to full-day, full-time kindergarten?
2. Who should be involved in planning this transition? Local school districts should involve local early childhood professionals in this planning including, child care providers and Head Start teachers.

Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

1. How will local school districts create full-day curriculum appropriate for the developmental needs of 5 and 6 year old children?
2. Should the state establish standards or benchmarks for developmentally appropriate full-time kindergarten?

MAN - a coalition of partners who believe that all MT children should have the opportunity to participate in high quality afterschool programs  
Out of School Time Care for 5 and 6 Year olds

1. With full-time kindergarten, working families would still need child care between the end of the school day and the end of the work day—approximately three hours. Child care providers cannot economically hold full-day child care slots for kindergarten children.
2. Kindergarten children are too young to be left without adult supervision when they are not in school.
3. Where will kindergarten children go afterschool before their parents leave work? Where will they go on days school gets out early or school is not in session due to teacher in-service, school vacations or summer break?

Child Readiness for Kindergarten

1. Will parents have enough information to decide if their child is ready for kindergarten?
2. Will the cost of child care influence parents to place a child in free full-time kindergarten whether the child is ready or not?

Montana Advocates for Children is a coalition of state level professional organizations including the Montana Association for the Education of Young Children, Montana Child Care Association, Montana Head Start Association, and Montana Child Care Resource & Referral Network. For more information, call 406/549-1028, ext. 200.